

NGG Writing Course 2023-2024
Tuesdays 12–2pm
Smilow 146

Instructors:

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Goals: The purpose of this course is to give you basic tools to write your candidacy exam, subsequent F30/F31 proposal, and more generally to begin honing your scientific writing/presentation skills. After an intro into aims writing, we will use the next 3 sessions to workshop your specific aims page (the core of most grant proposals) in small break-out groups. We then do a mock study section, so you can see the inner workings of the grant review process. We will spend two sessions covering central issues for the research strategy (where you describe what you will do and how you will interpret the results) and figure design.

Introduction and overview

- **12/5/23-Session 1:** Overview of the CE process and writing an NRSA-style proposal + overview of Aims, Q and A session

Planning your proposal

- **1/9/24 Session 2:** Specific Aims I
 - Homework: submit Aims draft (day before)
 - In class: refresher overview of Aims, followed by peer feedback and discussions in break-out groups
- **1/23/24 Session 3:** Specific Aims II
 - Homework: submit Aims draft (day before)
 - In class: peer feedback and discussions
- **1/30/24 Session 4:** Specific Aims III
 - Homework: submit Aims draft (day before)
 - In class: peer feedback and discussions

AIMS/Proposal Letter DUE FEBRUARY 2, 2024 (include your name, advisor name, title, and suggestion of 5-7 committee members; email to fuccillo@pennmedicine.upenn.edu and minghong@pennmedicine.upenn.edu)

- **2/6/24 Session 5:** Mock Study Section. Guest Chair: Ed Clayton, PhD, Program Officer, NEI
 - Homework: read and review assigned grants; watch video of mock study section from NIH
 - In class: overview of review process + mock study section
- **2/13/24 Session 6:** Research Strategy + Figures
 - Homework: review previous grants; emphasis on Significance and Research Strategy sections
 - In class: 30-50 min presentation on different styles for Significance and Research Strategy sections + presentation on example schematic and data figures.
- **2/20/24 Session 7:** Research Strategy
 - Homework: submit portion of Strategy + Figure (3 days before)
 - In class: peer feedback and discussions